

Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology
Board Meeting Teleconference
March 15, 2010

Members

Attending: Marty Connell, Acting Chairman
Jim Davison
Todd Graetz
Erik Somerfeld
Paul Tuss

Others Dave Desch, Executive Director

Attending: Jane Todd, Administrative Specialist
Ron de Yong, Director, Montana Department of Agriculture [joined the meeting at 10:42 and left at 10:51]

I. Call to Order

Acting Chairman Marty Connell called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. Ron de Yong, Director, Montana Department of Agriculture

[Postponed until 10:42 when Mr. de Yong joined the meeting.]

Dave Desch introduced Mr. Ron de Yong, Director of the Montana Department of Agriculture. Mr. de Yong asked to be put on the agenda to update the Board concerning the Montana Food and Agricultural Development Centers, which are statutorily funded by the Board for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The Montana Food and Agricultural Development Centers program is administered by the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. de Yong stated that with the annual appropriation of \$250,000 from MBRCT to the Department of Agriculture, four Montana Food and Agricultural Development Centers have been set up. They are located in Ronan, Glendive, Havre, and Columbus. Out of the annual \$250,000, each center receives \$60,000, and \$10,000 goes to the Department of Agriculture for administering the program. The centers are incubators that specialize in food processing, regulation, licensing and labeling. Each center also provides assistance with marketing and business plans. Mr. de Yong asked for feedback regarding what the Board considered to be the most effective use of this money – to fund these centers or to use the money for MBRCT grants. Mr. Jim Davison stated that the answer to the question may depend on what this year's production agriculture projects look like. The Board expressed its desire to build a relationship that will best serve the needs of both groups in making future requests to the legislature.

III. Election of Chairman

Todd Graetz nominated Marty Connell as Chairman of the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology. Erik Somerfeld seconded the motion. All in favor, Mr. Connell was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman.

March 15, 2010
Board Minutes

IV. Approval of minutes from 12/03/09 Board meeting

Marty Connell asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the December 23, 2009, Board meeting. There being no corrections or additions, Erik Somerfeld moved to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Todd Graetz. All in favor, the motion carried.

V. Discussion of proposals submitted 3/01/10 and schedule for making funding decisions

Dave Desch stated that 53 proposals were submitted by the March 1st deadline. Mr. Desch then described the process that has been used in the past to make funding decisions. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to use the process as described and to agree to a schedule to make funding decisions.

The Board decided on the following schedule:

- May 5 & 6 – Helena – In-person meeting to evaluate proposals. Determine which applicants will be asked to make a presentation to the Board.
- June 3 – Location to be announced - Meet in person to hear presentations.
- June 15 – 11:00 – Meet by telephone and make final funding decisions.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjourn

Paul Tuss moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Davison seconded the motion. Marty Connell adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Connell, Chairman